

HOUSE RESOLUTION 172

By Lamberth

A RESOLUTION to commemorate Tennessee as the "Volunteer State."

WHEREAS, the long and illustrious history of the State of Tennessee features thousands of individual instances in which our citizens selflessly laid aside personal concerns and safety to volunteer their services in support of those in need; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee first earned acclaim as the "Volunteer State" during the War of 1812 due to the key role played by volunteers from the Tennessee militia, especially in the Battle of New Orleans, in which American forces were commanded by Tennessee native and future President Andrew Jackson; and

WHEREAS, in September 1813, Tennessee Governor Willie Blount issued a call for 3,500 volunteers, and the enthusiastic response of Tennesseans initiated a tradition that gave the State its nickname of the "Volunteer State"; and

WHEREAS, by the end of the War of 1812 in early 1815, an estimated 28,000 Tennesseans had served; newspapers of the day touted the military spirit of the men of Tennessee, with numerous references to "the Tennessee Volunteers" and "the volunteers from Tennessee"; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned Andrew Jackson later sought to advance the rights of the common man against a corrupt aristocracy and to preserve the Union as the seventh President of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the Volunteer reputation was solidified in the Mexican-American War of 1846-1848, when President James K. Polk, a native son of Tennessee, issued a call for 2,800 volunteers and 30,000 Tennesseans answered affirmatively; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned James K. Polk significantly expanded the territory of the United States during his term as the eleventh President of the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, during the past 175 years, Tennesseans have added to their proud Volunteer heritage in numerous ways; and

WHEREAS, David Crockett was a legendary Tennessee statesman and military leader whose larger-than-life exploits earned him the nickname "King of the Wild Frontier"; he sacrificed his life volunteering in defense of Texas at the Battle of the Alamo; and

WHEREAS, native Tennessean Alvin C. York, an ordinary farmer and blacksmith, was one of the most decorated U.S. soldiers of World War I; he received the Medal of Honor for leading an attack against a German machine-gun installation; and

WHEREAS, Brigadier General Robert Neyland, the greatest defensive mind in college football history, led the University of Tennessee Volunteers football team to four national championships in addition to his distinguished service as an officer in the U.S. Army; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee history includes many other courageous military heroes (boy scout Sam Davis, Admiral David Farragut, Medal of Honor recipient Charles Coolidge) and gifted statesmen (John Sevier, Howard Baker, Jr., Lamar Alexander, Cordell Hull, Estes Kefauver) who contributed significantly to their State and nation after volunteering for the military or for public service; and

WHEREAS, whether it be the militia men, pioneers, and frontiersmen of yesterday or the law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency responders of today, everyday Tennesseans continue to take the lead as Volunteers of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, for nearly 225 years, Tennesseans have distinguished themselves as Volunteers, and no matter our station in life, we shall continue to fight the good fight for generations to come; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we commemorate Tennessee as the "Volunteer State," paying tribute to the many Tennesseans who have made this State, nation, and world a better place to live through their Volunteer efforts and looking forward to another 225 years of service to others.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared and displayed in the chamber of the House of Representatives, with this final clause omitted from such copy.